

9/11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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9/11 MEMORIAL GLADE OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

The Glade Recognizes 9/11 Rescue and Recovery Workers and All Who Are Sick or Who Have Died from Exposure to Toxins in the Aftermath of the 2001 attacks

Former New York City Mayor Bloomberg and 9/11 Health Advocates Join Thousands Gathered to Honor All Affected

(New York) May 30, 2019 – The National September 11 Memorial & Museum and its Board Chairman Michael R. Bloomberg joined 9/11 health advocates and community members today to dedicate the 9/11 Memorial Glade, an historic evolution of the 9/11 Memorial plaza that honors all who are suffering or have died from 9/11-related illness.

The Glade opened to the public after a dedication ceremony led by Bloomberg and 9/11 Memorial & Museum President and CEO Alice M. Greenwald. They were joined by Caryn Pfeifer, the widow of an FDNY firefighter and 9/11 health advocate, who died from cancer caused by exposure to Ground Zero toxins as well as 9/11 health advocate Jon Stewart.

The opening coincided with the 17th anniversary of the formal end of rescue and recovery operations at Ground Zero. Members of the New York congressional delegation, Alphonso David, Chief Counsel to Gov. Cuomo, and elected officials attended the ceremony.

The Glade recognizes and honors the sacrifice of rescue and recovery workers and all who are sick or who have died from exposure to toxins in the aftermath of the 2001 attacks at all three attacks sites. The Glade's design includes a pathway flanked by six large stone monoliths, ranging from 13 to 18 tons, that are inlaid with World Trade Center steel accompanied by an inscription at either end of the pathway. It is located just west of the Survivor Tree, roughly where the primary ramp that was used during the rescue and recovery effort once stood.

[View images from the dedication.](#)

“The completion of the 9/11 Memorial Glade is a significant milestone and it recognizes the continued impact of 9/11 on rescuers, recovery workers, survivors, our city’s residents and others,” 9/11 Memorial Board Chairman Michael R. Bloomberg said. “They continue to fall ill and many have died from exposure to Ground Zero toxins. This tribute honors them and helps us all remember them and their stories.”

“We are forever grateful to the first responders who put their own safety on the line to rescue those in danger on 9/11 and, in the months that followed, led the harrowing recovery efforts at Ground Zero,” Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said. “These

heinous attacks claimed thousands of lives, including those of the women and men who sustained illnesses while performing their duties. The 9/11 Memorial Glade is a monument to their heroism, and we will never forget the bravery they demonstrated on behalf of New Yorkers and all Americans.”

“For generations to come, the 9/11 Memorial Glade will stand as a testament to the tremendous capacity of the human spirit in the face of unimaginable tragedy,” said Alice M. Greenwald, 9/11 Memorial & Museum President and CEO. “The Glade honors all who continue to suffer from and succumb to illnesses in this ongoing health crisis stemming from 9/11.”

Pfeifer, wife of the late FDNY firefighter Raymond J. Pfeifer, who responded on 9/11, spoke at the dedication ceremony and was joined by their son, Terence, who serves as a current member of the FDNY and their daughter, Taylor.

“Like so many of you here today, Ray spent nine months searching and digging at Ground Zero, without being asked, without being told and without thinking of the consequences,” Pfeifer said. “But there were consequences. There was illness, and pain, and death.”

“The devastation of the 9-11 attacks spanned far beyond September 11 for the thousands of responders and survivors who were injured or have become gravely ill or lost their lives as a result of the exposure to 9/11 toxins,” said Congressman Jerrold Nadler, whose district includes the 9/11 Memorial & Museum and who was a leading proponent and co-author of the *Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2010* and its reauthorization. “The new Memorial Glade pays tribute to the strength and perseverance of those individuals, their sacrifices and struggles. Their stories have not been told often enough, and I am certain this new addition to the 9/11 Memorial plaza will serve as a solemn yet inspiring public space for generations to come.”

“When we needed them, they responded, risking their lives and exposing themselves to horrible disease-causing toxins in the aftermath of the attacks,” said Jon Stewart, who led the major fundraising effort, has advocated for 9/11-health benefits and serves on the 9/11 Memorial & Museum Board of Directors. “The Glade will honor this sacrifice and heroism, and everyone who is sick or has died from 9/11-related illness.”

“Fifteen years of advocating, helping pass nine pieces of legislation, donating over six million dollars, donating a kidney and building a Memorial Park on Long Island has cemented my legacy. But having this Memorial Glade built gets me one step closer to home,” said FealGood President John Feal, a 9/11 responder who lost part of his foot during the recovery. “I believe with all my heart this Glade will help ease the physical and mental pain that has tormented me for almost two decades. And this Glade is exactly what I need to heal, properly mourn those I lost, and finally find the peace that I have been searching for all this time.”

“I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity that was given to us to rectify the design of the 9/11 Memorial to include a long overdue tribute to those affected by 9/11 illnesses. The selfless sacrifice shown by so many rescue and recovery workers in the aftermath of the attacks inspired all of us, but we didn’t recognize the cost of that heroism till years after the fact. I feel proud and privileged that we have been able to add to and deepen the meaning of the 9/11 Memorial by the creation of this Memorial Glade,” said architect Michael Arad, who with Peter Walker designed the tribute. “Its roughhewn monoliths convey the strength and determination shown by this remarkable group, and the World Trade Center steel that is embedded in these

monoliths alludes to the sinewy strength and determination they displayed in the face of adversity. As Hemingway wrote, we are stronger in our broken places.”

Arad and Walker are the original designers of the 9/11 Memorial.

The project’s cost is approximately 5 million dollars and drew generous support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, Building Trades Unions, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo and New York State, through its affiliates, as well as Brookfield, Langan, Rechler Philanthropy, Richmond County Savings Foundation, RXR, Dan and Shery Tishman and United Rentals, Inc.

“We applaud the 9/11 Memorial & Museum for creating this lasting tribute to the men and women who worked around the clock during the nine-month rescue and recovery operation at the World Trade Center,” said Port Authority Executive Director Rick Cotton. “These individuals played a critical and courageous role in the 9/11 story, often at great personal sacrifice. Recognition for their contribution should endure for generations.”

“The 9/11 Memorial Glade’s thoughtful design fulfills our hope for a permanent home where visitors come to learn about our story,” said Sonia Agron, who is a 9/11 Memorial & Museum docent and took part in the recovery effort. “As the artifacts in the Museum illustrate our experience responding to the attacks, I hope this beautiful space invites everyone to gather, learn and understand the ongoing impact of 9/11 illnesses.”

Agron’s husband, retired NYPD officer Jose Agron, responded to the World Trade Center on 9/11 and has since developed pulmonary fibrosis and bladder cancer. Sonia Agron, who has lost a kidney to cancer and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and gastroesophageal reflux disease, is part of a group who provided advice and feedback during the design process of the Glade.

Representatives for Congressman Jerrold Nadler, retired FDNY Commissioner Sal Cassano, Manhattan Borough President Gale A. Brewer, 9/11 Health Watch Executive Director Ben Chevat, retired Port Authority Police Department Lt. William Keegan and others also joined 9/11-health advocates and providers, 9/11 family members, first responders, lower Manhattan residents, rescuers and recovery workers in providing guidance as part of the design inscription drafting process.

The Glade was dedicated and opened to the public before the 9/11 Memorial & Museum’s annual commemoration honoring the men and women of the nine-month rescue and recovery effort that formally ended on May 30, 2002. [Click here](#) for more information about the dedicated programs and commemorative activities recognizing the 17th anniversary.

GLADE INSCRIPTION LANGUAGE

This Memorial Glade is dedicated
To those whose actions in our time of need
Led to their injury, sickness, and death
Responders and recovery workers
Survivors and community members
Suffering long after September 11, 2001
From exposure to hazards and toxins
That hung heavy in the air
Here and beyond this site known as Ground Zero

And at the Pentagon
And near Shanksville, Pennsylvania
In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks.

Here we honor the tens of thousands
From across America and around the world
Who came to help and to heal
Whose selflessness and resolve
Perseverance and courage
Renewed the spirit of a grieving city
Gave hope to the nation
And inspired the world.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

The National September 11 Memorial & Museum is the nonprofit organization that oversees operations for the 9/11 Memorial and 9/11 Memorial Museum. Located on eight of the 16 acres of the World Trade Center site, the Memorial and Museum remember and honor the 2,983 people who were killed in the horrific attacks of September 11, 2001 and February 26, 1993. The Memorial plaza design consists of two reflecting pools formed in the footprints of the original Twin Towers surrounded by swamp white oak trees. The Museum displays more than 900 personal and monumental objects while its collection includes more than 60,000 items that present intimate stories of loss, compassion, reckoning and recovery linked to the events of 9/11 and the aftermath. The Museum also explores the global impact of 9/11 and its continuing significance through education programs, public programs, live talks and film features that cover contemporary topics designed for diverse audiences. For more information or to reserve a ticket to the 9/11 Memorial Museum, please visit 911memorial.org.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

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